



# News From MAIENstreet

## A Neighborhood Newsletter From Councilmember Brian Maienschein

October 2007 Volume 7, Issue 7



Proudly Representing the  
District Five  
Communities of:

*Carmel Mountain Ranch*  
*Mira Mesa*  
*Rancho Bernardo*  
*Sabre Springs*  
*San Pasqual*  
*Scripps Ranch*  
*Sorrento Mesa*

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## Repairs on the Way for RB Fire Station

I am so pleased to announce that I have obtained one million dollars that is eligible for use to renovate the Rancho Bernardo Fire Station. The community of Rancho Bernardo listed approximately one million dollars in requested improvements to the Fire Station. With this funding the Fire Station can be significantly renovated.

With the budget constraints that our city has been facing this has not been easy, but public safety has always been one of my top priorities and we can no longer let the men and women of Fire Station 33, who we entrust our safety and lives to, work in an environment like this any longer.

Fire Station 33 is in need of massive renovations. It is a 36 year old building designed for a crew of four that is in serious disrepair, and is overcrowded. The fire station provides service to 392 square miles in one of the largest and busiest Districts in all of San Diego. On average, the six members of Fire Station 33 respond to over 350 calls a month. Repairing this facility has been a top priority of mine and I am proud to have found a possible solution.



Planned renovations include constructing a new dormitory and fitness area, repaving the parking lot, installing two new apparatus doors and upgrading the kitchen and electrical system. This funding will allow for these renovations to be completed.

I plan to present this project to the Rancho Bernardo Planning Group at their next meeting and it will then go before the full San Diego City Council for approval.

The involvement and support of our local community in this project has been overwhelming and it is a true testament to how much the residents of Rancho Bernardo value the men and women who serve them.

## Maienschein Urges Stronger Tobacco Regulations

On September 10, 2007, I announced my continued support and commitment to the passage of the Tobacco Retailer Licensing Ordinance. I was proud to see my City Council colleagues join me later that day in approving the ordinance which will strengthen San Diego's current laws and will hold retailers who sell tobacco to minors accountable for violating the law.

The ordinance specifically will require retailers to apply for a tobacco license before they are permitted to sell tobacco products. The \$163 license fee will pay for additional police stings which help hold retailers accountable for the legal sale of their tobacco products and towards the full enforcement of the tobacco ordinance. Violators will face fines and ultimately their license to sell tobacco can be suspended or revoked.



I have been working to bring this ordinance before the City Council since 2004. As Chair of the PS&NS Committee, I have worked with the San Diego Tobacco-Free Communities Coalition and other stakeholders to develop a fair ordinance that will strengthen enforcement of tobacco laws. Securing the passage of a strong tobacco retail licensing ordinance in the City of San Diego has been a top priority of the American Lung Association and the San Diego Tobacco-Free Communities Coalition. The revised ordinance reflects the creativity, passion and determination of a diverse group of people who are committed to protecting children from illegal tobacco sales. Because roughly one-third of all youth smokers will eventually die prematurely from smoking-related chronic disease, this ordinance holds the promise of saving countless lives.

I believe that his ordinance is a fair law that will protect our children and will penalize retailers who continue to sell tobacco products to minors.

## Highland Ranch Tot Lot Gets a Face Lift

On September 29, 2007, I was proud to join my fellow neighbors and community members at the grand re-opening of the Highland Ranch Park Tot Lot.

In the past, this tot lot has provided the families of Carmel Mt. Ranch with a fun and safe place to bring their kids and to spend time with their neighbors. Over the years, wear and tear has left these tot lots in need of upgrading and repair and I was proud to help celebrate that accomplishment.

The upgrades not only provide better play equipment for our children, but also provide ADA accessibility for our disabled residents.

The tot lot was funded in part by Shea Homes. However, the Carmel Mt. Ranch Recreation Council and various community donations paid for over half the total cost of the project and I greatly appreciate their willingness to get involved.

As a father of two young girls and as a neighbor, I can confidently say that this new and improved tot lot will be a great benefit to the kids and parents of this community.



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## Maienschein's Graffiti Ordinance Approved at PS&NS Meeting

I am pleased to announce that the Zero Tolerance Graffiti Ordinance that I recently proposed is one step closer to becoming law. On September 12, 2007 the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee voted to approve the new graffiti law and forward it on to the full City Council for enactment.

Graffiti has been increasing at an alarming rate in most San Diego communities and costs taxpayers millions every year. However more disturbing is the fact that graffiti has become an act directly linked to gang activity. In fact, many teens are introduced to gang culture through their participation in "tagging" or other acts of vandalism. Graffiti is often the first step in a lifetime of violence and disregard for the law. It is for these reasons that I proposed the Zero Tolerance Graffiti Ordinance.

The Zero Tolerance Graffiti ordinance calls for all taggers to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and recognizes graffiti as a crime and no longer as a nuisance. It will also require all aerosol paint containers, glass etching products and other graffiti tools that are for sale to be kept in a securely locked cabinet or other storage device that the public does not have access to and would require employee assistance.

Our current graffiti laws are simply not working and further regulation is needed to prevent tagging and other acts of vandalism. I will continue to advocate on behalf of this ordinance and I look forward to its passage by the full City Council.



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News From MAIENstreet  
City Administration Building  
202 C Street, MS 10-A  
San Diego, CA 92101

Phone: 619-236-6655  
Fax: 619-238-0915  
Email: BMaienschein@sandiego.gov  
Web: [www.sandiego.gov/city-council/district-5](http://www.sandiego.gov/city-council/district-5)

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*Chief of Staff*

**John Rivera**  
*Chief Policy Advisor*

**Gabrielle Alves**  
*Council Representative*

**Megan Ekard**  
*Council Representative*

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*Council Representative*

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**Christine Young**  
*Office Manager/Scheduler*

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**<http://www.sandiego.gov/city-council/district-5>**

From my website, you can also sign up to receive **e-News from MAIENstreet** every month via e-mail.

It's a pleasure to serve you on the San Diego City Council!